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Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Brazil and Japan: draft resolution

Mainstreaming of volunteering for the next decade

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/67 of 5 December 2011 on the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers,

Recognizing that volunteerism is an important component of any strategy aimed at such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, social integration, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination,

Acknowledging the existing contribution of the organizations of the United Nations system in support of volunteering, especially the work of the United Nations Volunteers programme around the world, and acknowledging also the efforts of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and other volunteer-involving organizations to promote volunteerism throughout their global work,

Welcoming the publication by the United Nations Volunteers of the first *State of the World's Volunteerism Report*,[1] that highlights the global recognition of volunteerism, with its core values of solidarity, reciprocity, mutual trust, social inclusion and empowerment, as well as its positive effects on individual, community and societal well-being, and commending the United Nations Volunteers programme for taking the lead in producing the report and anticipating its continuation,

Welcoming the creation of momentum in developing common platforms to increase support for volunteerism through the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers in 2011, and urging all stakeholders to

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.I.12.

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accelerate the momentum in the recognition, the promotion, the facilitation and the networking of volunteerism and, in this regard, to renew their efforts for the mainstreaming of volunteering,

Commending the increasing link between volunteerism and sports, which, through the invaluable contributions of national and international volunteers to the preparation and the organization of major sporting events such as the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, contributes to the promotion of the ideal of peace,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Commends* the contributions from national and international volunteers for their fundamental role in the promotion of peace and development;

3. *Calls upon* the stakeholders to do their utmost to strengthen the policy relating to volunteering, including youth volunteering, at the local, national and international levels, as well as the mainstreaming of volunteering in all relevant issues of the United Nations, as main objectives for the next decade;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the community as the volunteer-accepting stakeholder, in order to overcome its challenges and retain ownership, and calls for a people-centered, holistic approach that draws on the notion of human security, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/290, of 10 September 2012, in order to build an inclusive and resilient society, supported by a social bond among the people through community-based approaches that facilitate the integration of volunteers;

5. *Notes with appreciation* the growth and the development of volunteerism since the International Year of Volunteers, and encourages Member States to consider peace and development programmes and initiatives that offer opportunities to build strong and cohesive volunteer coalitions around shared goals at the local, national, regional and international levels;

6. *Invites* Member States to mobilize and support the research community globally in carrying out more studies on the subject of volunteerism, in partnership with civil society, in order to provide sound knowledge as a foundation for policies and programmes;

7. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to do their utmost to mainstream volunteering in all relevant issues of the United Nations, particularly in order to contribute to the accelerated achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to the development agenda beyond 2015, sustainable development goals and a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

8. *Urges* Member States and the United Nations system to create favourable environments to enable a variety of volunteers to participate in volunteer activities, responding to the diversity of volunteers;

9. *Requests* Member States and the United Nations system to work together with other volunteer-involving organizations to support efforts to enhance the security and the protection of volunteers;

10. *Encourages* Member States, in cooperation with the international community and civil society, to promote the inclusion of all segments of society so

[2] A/67/153.

as to benefit from their diverse life experiences and to incorporate volunteerism into education curricula for all ages and into school-community engagements;

11. *Requests* the United Nations Volunteers to continue their efforts to promote volunteerism, including through the promotion of the integration of volunteerism for peace and development, the mobilization of volunteers and the development of new and innovative recruitment modalities, such as online volunteering;

12. *Calls upon* organizations in the United Nations system to continue to assist in the promotion of the United Nations Volunteers and upon development partners and all Member States in a position to do so to increase funding to the Special Voluntary Fund for research and training, pilot innovations and the exploration of other funding modalities;

13. *Emphasizes* that volunteerism offers valuable opportunities for youth engagement and leadership to contribute to the development of peaceful and inclusive societies, while also allowing youth to acquire skills, build their capacities and increase their employability;

14. *Urges* the United Nations Volunteers and other relevant United Nations organizations to promote a youth volunteer programme called for in the five-year action agenda of the Secretary-General, also urges all stakeholders to promote youth volunteering, including through the programme, in cooperation with the United Nations system, and invites Member States to consider voluntary contributions to the youth volunteering trust fund for the purpose of the programme;

15. *Recognizes* the important role played by women volunteers, inter alia, in meeting women's needs, and encourages women's leadership and participation in all forms of volunteering;

16. *Reaffirms* the need to encourage volunteerism in all its forms as an activity that can significantly contribute to the cohesiveness and the well-being of communities and societies as a whole and that involves and benefits all segments of society, including women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants and those who remain excluded for social or economic reasons;

17. *Encourages* Member States to promote the further engagement of the private sector through the expansion of corporate volunteering and employee volunteer activities, creating an environment that enables employees to carry out both volunteering and work, as well as to promote the coordination between the private and public sectors;

18. *Encourages* all stakeholders to recognize the importance of coordinating between the skills and the experience of the volunteers and the actual needs in the community, and emphasizes the significant role of focal points to bridge volunteering gaps;

19. *Emphasizes* that people-to-people relations are the core value of volunteerism, and encourages further efforts to build and strengthen networks among volunteers and all relevant partners at the national, regional and international levels, including World Volunteer Web as a global networking hub, as well as new technologies and social media;

20. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders to integrate volunteering in a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, thereby reflecting the issues discussed in the thematic debate on disaster risk reduction at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly in April 2012 and in the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Reduction in Tohoku in July 2012, which include the involvement of volunteers in planning, and the importance of education, training and volunteer-based disaster response, including voluntary evacuation;

21. *Encourages* relevant stakeholders to integrate volunteering in peacebuilding activities, thereby, inter alia, making more effective use of volunteers, including international United Nations Volunteers, as civilian capacity, and reflecting the importance of mobilizing and building the capacity of youth, who tend to be affected by conflict and unemployed in its aftermath;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, under the item entitled "Social development", on the implementation of the present resolution, including a plan of action to mainstream volunteering in peace and development and other relevant issues, in particular those mentioned in paragraph 7 of the present resolution, in the next decade and beyond.